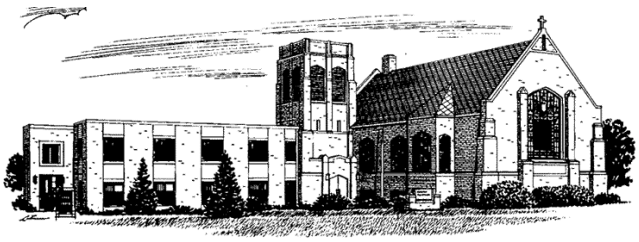
SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph



The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary
Danielle Hohman, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

February 2017

I have been struck by the Confession and Forgiveness we are using this Epiphany season, based on our Scripture lessons. It is down-to-earth and compelling. I offer it here for your daily reflection and use.

Loving God,
we confess that we have turned from your way
to follow our own ways.
Forgive us for the times
we have spoken or acted too quickly;
we have not spoken or acted at all;
we have hurt those closest to us;
we have hurt those we have yet to know;
we have thought more about ourselves than others;
we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.
Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,
so that we can live again as your children. Amen.
Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.
Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.
God's love never runs out.
God never tires of calling us beloved children.
Hear God say to you now:
Your sins are forgiven,
for the sake of ✠ Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Pastor Joan

Annual Meeting Election Results

We congratulate our new council members, who were elected at the annual meeting. They are Nolan Becker, Brad Frey, Karen Hinckley, and Amy Nelson.

Thank you to our outgoing members, who faithfully served. They are Mary Alice Brunner, Austin Kamala, Jan Stevens, and Frieda Williams.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows.

Serving in the military:
Andy Wedde – **California**

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes
Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in February Birthday Wishes

Feb. 2 - Lindsay Gilmore-Gaspari
3 - Makayla Bradley
5 - Jerry Stelling
Erin Vollmer
6 - Linda Dipert
Mary Alice Brunner
8 - Ernst Knauf
Krystina Walker
9 – Frieda Williams
10 - Aiden Ashley
15 - Robert King
21 - Ryan Talbert
Bob Seymour
22 - Darlene Kiessel
26 - Wendy King
28 - Cheryl Houser

For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

SABBATICAL NEWS

"What will Pastor be doing while on sabbatical?" That is a question often raised in the last months. Here is my (pastor's) response.

I will be using the template of the Wholeness Wheel to frame my time on sabbatical. The Wholeness Wheel, as offered by Portico, the ELCA's benefit program, is a way to talk about the whole health and well being of persons. Here are its components and some of the general ways I plans to address them.

*Social/Interpersonal: Connecting and nurturing relationships with family and friends
*Emotional Well-Being: Beach time! Journaling based on the Wholeness Wheel and Sabbatical Readings and Experiences
*Physical Well-Being: Continue to work out in the fitness center, where I am a member; weekly Tai Chi classes when in town
*Financial Well-Being: Estate Planning
*Vocational Well-Being: Institute of Liturgical Studies, Valparaiso University
*Intellectual Well-Being: Reading from Bibliography

Bibliography
Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion by Sara Miles
Breathing Spaces by Heidi Neumark
Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation by Cynthia Moe-Lobeda
Waking Up White by Debbie Irving

*Spiritual Well-Being: I will attend worship in a variety of settings, many non-ELCA. I plan to spend time on spiritual retreat.

Activities and readings will include those which help me explore more fully the themes of Community Engagement and Inclusiveness. I look for this to include places of worship that are unfamiliar to me in style or audience, and elements of social justice, including race and issues that especially affect women, the homeless, and the LGBTQ community.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the sabbatical planning team (Kerrie Hoodlebrink, Mary Alice Brunner, and Pastor). We'd be happy to try and answer your questions and receive your thoughts.

Sabbatical Fund Established
Submitted by Mary Alice Brunner

Plans for Pastor Oleson's sabbatical are coming together. Funds to provide for Supply Pastors during her absence were authorized by the congregation as part of the 2017 Budget Plan acceptance. Pastor has a budget of $1300 for Continuing Education (this includes $300 not used in 2016 and rolled over to 2017) that she may use to pay expenses she may incur for classes, books and materials, and travel during her sabbatical. Some members of the congregation have asked about making voluntary contributions to a sabbatical fund to help with expenses in excess of what is already available in the Continuing Education budget. In response to this request, a Sabbatical Fund has been established and anyone wishing to make voluntary contributions to this fund may do so by writing "Sabbatical Fund" on the memo line of their check.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS
As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday Feb 5 –
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday Feb 12 –
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday Feb 19 –
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

Sunday Feb 26 –
Transfiguration of Our Lord
Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Nursery Help Needed
With our schedule of two services, we are in need of more help for the nursery. Danielle Hohman is our paid child care provider. But we need a volunteer for each service so that there are 2 persons in the nursery at all times. If you can help, please sign up at church or let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness. We'd like 8 volunteers for early service and 8 for late service so that you need serve only once every 2 months.

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Learning

book *of* faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Wednesday Bible Study
You are invited to join a study and discussion on the Scripture readings that will be used the following Sunday at worship. Join the conversation on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM. During February we will meet on the 1th, 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

Thursday Bible Class
A new 16-session study, entitled "The Greatest Story: Paul" has begun. The group meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 am. Participants will journey with the Apostle Paul from Acts through the Epistles. Cost of the book is $13.

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Ephesus Bible study group will meet next on March 19. Watch for details in March's newsletter. The group always welcomes new participants.

Men's Monthly Devotion -

Saturday, February 4th, 2017, Saron Men's Monthly Devotion and Breakfast will meet at the Galley Grill in Stevensville at 9:00 am. The Galley Grill is on the Super 8 Motel property at 4296 Red Arrow Highway just north of the Tyler Honda car dealership.

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. David Slater is leading our studies. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a time of fellowship. All men are invited to join us. As the Bible says "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). We are not going to meet during Lent but rather encourage everyone to participate in the Wednesday evening soup suppers and worship. Therefore our last Tuesday Bible study before Lent will be on February 21. For more information call Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or David Slater at 269-281-0848.

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

February 12th (second Sunday), 6:30 in the upstairs lounge, the book for discussion is A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman. The reviews on this one are excellent. Ove is a curmudgen. He has "staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him the bitter neighbor from hell." (Amazon) Behind this description there is a story; a charming story, a story about how one life has an impact on many others. Don't miss reading this one and our resulting opinions.

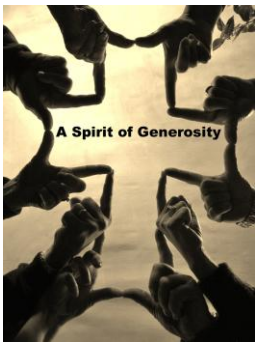
The book for March 5th is I Am Malala, by Malala Yousufzai and Christina Lamb. This memoir earned Malala the Nobel Peace Prize, the youngest recipient ever to receive this honor. When the Taliban took control of Malala's home valley in Pakistan, she was fifteen. She spoke out and fought for her right to an education. She was shot in the head by the Taliban while returning home from school. We will discuss her remarkable journey from not being expected to survive her injuries, to the halls of the United Nations and the" fierce love of parents for a daughter in a society that prizes sons above all else." (Amazon)

Please join us. We share so many different ideas that lead to good discussions. Questions? Contact Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free". (Frederick Douglas)

Support

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE



….with glad and generous hearts, praising God …. Acts 2:46c

The following prayer is an excerpt from the Sisters of Charity website about ***generous hearts:***

"Gracious God, give us generous hearts:
to share whatever gift it is that you have given to us;
to acknowledge you as the giver of all good gifts…
to share without expecting something in return;
to be wise in the way of caring for ourselves and others;…
to grow in giving thanks for everything."*

Amen.

**www.sistersofcharityhealth.org/blog/post/2012/09/25/Prayer for today-prayer of generosity*

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Eric Standen or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Eric Standen or Denise Cook.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

MICHAGAN BLOOD DRIVE

Mark your 2017 calendars for Saron's next BLOOD DRIVE! February 27, from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Tell you friends and neighbors, all are welcome to give the gift of LIFE.
Thank you, Keith Stevens and Marilyn Lucy

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

A big thank you to all the folks who have served or baked cookies this year, for the BH Soup Kitchen.

We are always in need of LARGE CANS of fruit.
If you would like to help out in 2016, let me know!
Thanks, Jan Stevens 429-2044 THANKS!

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

FACEBOOK

We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. If you prefer your own or your family member's picture not to be posted, please let us know, so that we can honor that request.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE NEWS

On Wednesday, February 1, at 12:30 pm there will be a showing of the Michigan documentary, "Break the Chain" addressing the issue of human trafficking in Michigan. Plan to see it at Southwestern Michigan College.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

Ash Wednesday is March 1. Worship will be at 12:15 and 7 pm. During the following Wednesdays in Lent we will have worship at 7 pm, with a soup supper at 6 pm. More details will be announced in our March newsletter.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle's will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8th, 2017 in the lounge at church. Colleen Lundgren will be the study leader.

SINGERS AND LISTENERS

Dorcas Circle is having their Annual Hymn Sing on Sunday, Feb. 19th, at 3:45 p.m., in Saron's sanctuary. This is an event for everyone! Sign up with your favorite hymn after the church service. Questions? See Irma Gorman

Saron Church Women Rummage Sale

On Saturday, June 10, 2017, Saron Church Women will be having a rummage sale in the church dining room. Please save items for the sale. We will let you know later when items may be brought to the church. Thank you.

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the church. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saves the church a considerable amount of money. Work includes folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday service, minor maintenance and some light cleaning/vacuuming. We really need some additional helpers, both men and women. It is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. Please consider helping and if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

HELP NEEDED AFTER SECOND SERVICE

Please consider helping out once every other month with the important job of securing our building after the second service. The job would be to lock all the outer doors, turn off lights and check a few areas in the building. It does not take long and usually you only are assigned once every other month if we have enough help. This is a job that needs to be done and we cannot expect our Pastor to have that responsibility. If you can help or you would like to find out more about the job please contact Janet or Bill Oleson.

Council News

Attendance Record	
01/01/2017	*58*
01/08/2017	*61*
01/15/2017	*90*
01/22/2017	*107*

Saron's Council Members – 2017
New Assignments will be decided
Feb. 4th – the following info is accurate until then

Tbd – President
Mary Alice Brunner, until Feb. 4
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Secretary
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Nolan Becker (269-558-3252) – Youth*
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) - Support
Tyler Cook (269-930-2810) – Hospitality*
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Hospitality*
tbd – Outreach*
Brad Frey (921-8618) - tbd
Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – tbd
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) - tbd
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Vision Statements:

Facilities
Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming
Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship
Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach
Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth
Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning
Center our lives in Christ through life-long learni

Children's Message

What Jesus' followers might look like

Annual Mtg

Kiosk in memory of Dick Smart

Padded Chairs in memory of Ruth Hahn

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

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A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

February 2017

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Saron
Volunteer Schedule

	February 5 ***Fifth Sunday Afte Epiphany***		***February 12*** ***Sixth SundayAfterEpiphany***		***February 19*** ***Seventh Sunday after Epiphany***		***February 26*** ***Transfiguration of Our Lord***	
	8:30	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	***8:30***	***11:00***
Assisting minister	Wendy King	Tyler Cook	Eric Standen	Dennis Lundgren	Jan Steven	Bill Oleson	Marilyn Frey	Austin Kamala
Reader/ Comm.Asst	Sue Rood	Denise Cook	Pauline Ngonyani	Bob Kynast	Sally Schmuhl	Constance Slater	Wendy King	Matt Bradley
Ushers	Keith Stevens & Jim Manore	Peter & Karen Johnson	Walt & Sally Schmuhl	Scott and Lindsay Gaspari	Fritz Knauf and Steve Bell	Dave & Sue Bailey	Eric and Deb Standen	David and Emma young
Acolyte	Troy Burrow	Molly Becker	Brandon Burrow	Grant Gacek	Jenna & Brooke Henderson	Mia Bradley	Carter Hohman	Meredith Gacek
Nursery 1st	Darlene Kiessel	Mary Kynast	Mary Alice Brunner	Judi Huff	Marilyn Frey	Marilyn Lucy	Karen Hinckley	Frieda Williams
Nursery 2nd	Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman	Danielle Hohman
Bldg. close		Ken Ark		Bob and Mary Kynast		Jerry and Ruth Stelling		Bruce and Linda Huff
Snacks								
Flowers	Scott & Lindsay Gaspari Elizabeth's Birthday Feb. 2		OPEN		Krin Jurgensen			

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	**2** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**3**	4 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Council Retreat
5 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	**6** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**7** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**8** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Deborah Circle Meeting	**9** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**10**	11
12 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Discussion Group	**13** Newsletter Articles due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**14** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**15** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	**16** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**17**	18
19 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes 3:45pm Hymn Sing	**20** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**21** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**22** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	**23** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**24**	25
26 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	**27** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 2-6:00 p.m. Blood Drive	**28**				